

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-10 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01

AGR-05 TRSE-00 DHA-02 EB-07 OES-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /110 W

-----140514Z 079368 /10

R 121621Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3781

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

USMISSION GENEVA

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ROME FOR FODAG

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION VIEWS ON WORLD FOOD PROGRAM TARGET

REF: (A) STATE 13280, (B) EC BRUSSELS 4629

1. MISSION OFFICER SPOKE TO EC FOOD AID OFFICIALS IN DG-VIII, SZARF AND MOLINIER, REGARDING US VIEWS CONCERNING PROPOSED WORLD FOOD PROGRAM TARGET FOR 1978/1979. APPROPRIATE FOOD AID OFFICIALS IN DG-VI ARE IN ROME THIS WEEK AND NEXT. DG-VIII OFFICIALS FULLY CONCUR WITH US POSITION THAT THE WFP TARGET SHOULD BE REDUCED. THE COMMISSION ITSELF, HOWEVER, DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN WFP MULTI-ANNUAL PLEDGES BECAUSE ITS PROGRAM IS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. THE COMMISSION, NEVERTHELESS, DOES PARTICIPATE IN FORMULATING COMMUNITY VIEWS ON THE WFP ACTIVITIES AND WILL PASS ON US VIEWS TO COUNCIL GROUP WHICH WILL MEET IN ROME PRIOR TO MEETING. SZARF INDICATES THAT RECENT EC WORKING GROUP DISCUSSED WFP TARGET. SEVERAL MEMBER STATES, PARTICULARLY UK,
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BELGIUM AND FRG, INDICATED RESERVATIONS CONCERNING PROPOSED TARGET.

2. SZARF QUESTIONS ABILITY OF LDC RECIPIENTS OF WFP PROGRAMS TO EFFECTIVELY ABSORB PROPOSED TARGET AID. HE ALSO DOUBTS THAT WFP HAS SUFFICIENT VIABLE AND ACCEPTABLE PROJECTS FOR THIS VOLUME OF AID. HE AGREES WITH US

POINT THAT PROPOSED TARGET WOULD LIKELY REDUCE QUALITY
OF WFP PROGRAMS.

3. EC OFFICIALS ADD THAT THIS YEAR THE COMMUNITY WILL
PROVIDE 55,000 MT OF CEREALS TO WFP. THE COMMISSION
HAS PROPOSED TO MEMBER STATES THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL
PROGRAMS FOR 1977: 1) SKIMMED MILK POWDER, 30,000 MT;
AND 2) BUTTER OIL, 10,000 MT. THE EC COUNCIL IS
EXPECTED TO APPROVE THESE PROGRAMS NEXT MONTH. SZARF
NOTES THAT BUTTER OIL IS REDUCED FROM LAST YEAR'S LEVEL
OF 16,000 MT BECAUSE THE WFP WAS NOT ABLE TO USE FULLY
LAST YEAR'S CONTRIBUTION.

4. CONCERNING COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER US/EC
FOOD AID CONSULTATIONS (SEE REF. B), SZARF AND MOLINIER
WILL BE IN ROME FOR WFP MEETING FROM MAY 16-18. IF US
OFFICIALS AGREE, THEY SUGGEST THAT EC AND US OFFICIALS
MEET WITH FAO OFFICIALS, SUCH AS A. G. LEEKS, DIRECTOR OF
COMMODITIES AND TRADE, TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS
TO COORDINATE IN THE FIELD FOOD AID PROGRAM PREPARATIONS
IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MOLINIER WOULD ALSO LIKE TO
MEET WITH SHEEHAN OF AID TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON
1977 NFDM COUNTRY PROGRAMS. HINTON

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